



City of Lucas
Technology Committee

Regular Meeting

April 9, 2019

7:00 PM

City Hall – 665 Country Club Road – Lucas, Texas

MINUTES

Call to Order

Chairman Paul Rathgeb called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Committee Members Present:

Chairman Paul Rathgeb
Member Mark Skaggs
Member George Brody
Member Dennis Scully

City Staff Present:

City Manager Joni Clarke
Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak
Bill Baxter, City IT Consultant

Committee Members Absent:

Vice Chairman Trey Sleeper

City Council Liaison Present:

Councilmember Debbie Fisher

Regular Agenda

1. Citizen Input.

There was no citizen input at this meeting.

2. Consider approving the minutes of the March 12, 2019 Technology Committee meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Committee Member Scully, seconded by Committee Member Brody to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously by a 4 to 0 vote.

3. Consider periodic presentations to the City Council.

City Manager Joni Clarke suggested that as the Technology Committee moves forward with their plans to improve internet service throughout the City, the Committee should periodically provide updates to the City Council on their efforts.

Committee Member Skaggs stated that he would present an update to the Council and coordinate with Ms. Clarke on an appropriate date.

4. Consider moving the May 14, 2019 Technology Committee meeting.

In order to have the City Attorney present to discuss new legislation regarding the Open Meetings Act, Assistant the City Manager Kent Souriyasak suggested the May meeting be moved to May 8, May 29 or May 30.

MOTION: A motion was made by Committee Member Brody, seconded by Committee Member Scully to move the meeting to May 30, 2019. The motion passed unanimously by a 4 to 0 vote.

5. Discuss a coverage map of Frontier internet services.

Committee Member Scully discussed a coverage map of Frontier internet service and Nannette Ash-Gantt, Frontier Supervisor of Network Engineering, attended the meeting to provide information regarding Frontier's requirements. Ms. Gantt indicated that Frontier reviews building costs, shared costs with neighborhoods to offset costs, and a rate of return when considering new customers. In order to assist in providing possible internet solutions, Frontier needed specific locations of where fiber was absent throughout the City and the number of homes in the given area to determine costs of installing fiber. Ms. Gantt also indicated that she would ask her department to create a more detailed coverage map of Frontier internet service throughout the City.

6. Discuss communication efforts in the community, data collection, speed test options, and improvements for a communication website.

Committee Member Skaggs discussed the website he created called Lucas Broadband (www.lucasbroadband.com) that would act as a primary source of communication to share information and receive feedback from residents regarding internet service. Mr. Skaggs reviewed features of the website and options for a speed test.

The Committee discussed ways in which they could gather information from area homeowner's associations to assist in internet service and speed availability.

The Committee decided that the speed and mapping application being developed by Baxter IT should be used to collect internet speed tests in order to protect private information and manage data.

7. Provide an update on the webpage application to collect data on internet speed and mapping.

Bill Baxter, the City's IT Consultant, discussed with the Committee the internet speed and mapping application developed that will be part of the City's website to collect internet speed and location data from residents. The current launch date for the website application was scheduled for May 6.

Committee Member Skaggs discussed with Mr. Baxter if the new application was needed given that some of the information could be gathered from various vendors as well as the new Lucas Broadband website, and the amount of time spent on creating the application.

Chairman Rathgeb stated that to be as transparent as possible while collecting information from citizens and their information should be stored and managed by the City.

The Committee decided to have the Lucas Broadband website as a volunteer-based website to communicate and share information with residents that is separate from the City website in order to not cause confusion as to where to get the technology updates. They will not be having online forum discussions in order to comply with the Open Meetings Act.

The Committee also discussed the concerns regarding collecting information from the speed test application. These concerns include protecting private residential information and data management that should be monitored by the City.

Councilmember Fisher suggested placing an item on the May 30 agenda to discuss with the City Attorney the collection and storage of data obtained from citizens.

8. Discuss establishing task leaders and responsibilities for problem data gathering and analysis, demographic gathering and analysis, and universe of possible solutions.

Chairman Rathgeb discussed establishing leaders and areas of responsibility for the following initiatives:

- Problem data gathering and analysis
- Demographic gathering and analysis
- Universe of possible solutions

Committee Member Skaggs suggested reaching out to Rise Broadband customers while information was being gathered from other companies.

The Committee discussed reaching out to Rise Broadband to determine if they would consider fixing certain internet connection problems in the City.

Mr. Baxter suggested the Committee reach out to them as a board rather than individually.

Mr. Skaggs suggested a new role be created that would reach out to various providers, establish a relationship and invite to Committee meetings.

Chairman Rathgeb suggested that the Committee needed to set a list of goals. Committee Members Skaggs and Brody volunteered to determine a list of goals.

Mr. Skaggs stated that he would be the information publisher and would make the website separate from the City so that City Staff would not be required to review all the content.

Chairman Rathgeb discussed with Nannette Ash-Gantt, Frontier Supervisor of Network Engineering, if Frontier maintained demographic information.

Ms. Gantt stated that Frontier had demographic information available and discussed with Chairman Rathgeb how Frontier could bring fiber to the Lucas community. Ms. Gantt stated that Frontier would need to be informed of specific areas where fiber was not currently located within the City, determine the cost to add fiber to the area, how many homes were in the area, and if the neighborhood would be willing to supplement any of the cost.

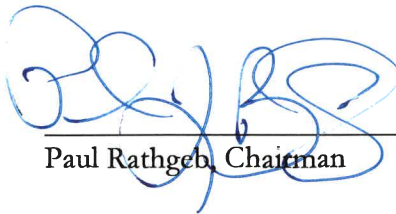
Chairman Rathgeb suggested the Committee reach out to the other providers and invite them to a Committee meeting. He also suggested that the Committee choose five neighborhoods, three neighborhoods that included homeowners' associations and two that did not and give that information to Frontier so that they can determine the cost associated with adding fiber to those neighborhoods.

Committee Member Scully stated that he would work with Mr. Skaggs to define the neighborhoods and get that information to Frontier. Mr. Scully stated that he had already reached out to AT&T.


Chairman Rathgeb stated that he'd like to table this item of assigning position leads and bring back at a later time if needed.

9. Adjournment.

MOTION: A motion was made by Committee Member Brody, seconded by Committee Member Scully to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm. The motion passed unanimously by a 4 to 0 vote.



Paul Rathgeb, Chairman



Stacy Henderson, City Secretary

